

ABSTRACT

An optical pickup is provided which includes a light source, an optical system for converging a laser beam emitted from the light source, and an optical element having a function of increasing a numerical aperture of the optical system, wherein recording and/or reproducing information on a recording medium is performed by using the laser beam from the light source while the optical element is brought in contact with or in close to the recording medium, and the optical element has a contamination-preventing structure.